



State of Washington

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

### **DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

**Name of Proposal:** DNS 15-056: HARPER ESTUARY RESTORATION - PHASE 1

#### **Description of Proposal:**

The Harper Estuary restoration project will restore unimpeded tidal influence and habitat processes to a pocket estuary currently impacted by an undersized culvert and historic fill. The project builds on past nearshore habitat restoration feasibility studies and conceptual design work over the past decade.

The Harper estuary restoration project was selected by the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) for funding through the Natural Resource Damage (NRD) funds associated with the Cleanup Settlement Account for the ASARCO smelter site in Tacoma. The restoration project was designed to build on the PSNERP project concepts, resulting in this proposal. During collaboration with Kitsap County and community outreach, the road removal option identified in the PSNERP full restoration conceptual design was removed from further consideration due to emergency response concerns and a bridge will be used to replace the undersized culvert on Olympiad Drive. In addition, the informal boat landing was an important feature as identified in community meetings. The boat landing will be relocated within the project area and designed to replace the function of the existing boat landing without expanding availability for boat launch beyond an informal site primarily used by the local community.

The current design for the estuary restoration, to be implemented in two phases, includes:

Phase 1:        Removal of industrial fill (bricks, gravels & fill placement)  
                 Relocation of the informal boat landing  
                 Removal of relict road fill and bulkhead  
                 Estuary restoration including channel work and planting of upland areas  
                 Replacement of the undersized culvert on Southworth Drive with a larger culvert

Phase 2:        Replacement of the undersized culvert on Olympiad Drive with a 120' bridge

Phase 1 work is the subject of this SEPA review. This part of the project is fully funded and ready for construction in summer 2016. The bridge construction will take longer to design, obtain full funding and construct (Phase 2). Therefore, the SEPA review of Phase 2 will take place independently. Kitsap County will be the project proponent for Phase 2.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
Contact: Doris Small, Habitat Restoration Coordinator  
600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501  
(360) 902-2258  
[Doris.Small@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Doris.Small@dfw.wa.gov)

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Harper Estuary, Southworth, Kitsap County, Washington: Township 23N, Range 02E, Section 2.

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law<sup>1</sup> does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on November 3, 2015**.

**Method of Comment:** The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood


**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** October 20, 2015

**SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 15-056.dns